

FEBRUARY 6, 2001

**WOMEN MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE, GROUPS BATTLE AGAINST
FORCES INTENT ON TAKING AWAY A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) today joined women members of the House of Representatives to battle forces intent on taking away a woman's right to choose. At a news conference, the National Abortion Federation, NARAL, and Planned Parenthood Federation of America joined the House members and others to protest proposed legislation to restrict access to mifepristone (formerly known as RU-486).

"We have a White House that has already attacked a woman's right to choose, an Attorney General primed to take away a woman's guaranteed constitutional right, and forces in Congress intent on passing anti-choice bills. Now, more than ever, it's our responsibility to turn back all attempts to weaken Roe v. Wade and to protect our rights," Schakowsky said.

Schakowsky said that the proposed legislation would restrict access to mifepristone even though the drug has been thoroughly studied, was under review by the Food and Drug Administration for nearly 8 years before finally receiving approval, and has been used safely by nearly 10,000 American women. The bill would also "harass" doctors who prescribe mifepristone.

"We don't want the government in our bedroom or in our doctor's office. This is a legal and safe abortion procedure and we're here to stop those who want to take that away," Schakowsky added.